

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Koushik Ghosh

DATE: August 1, 2003

RE: Incarcerated Young Adults Previously Served by Child-Serving Agencies

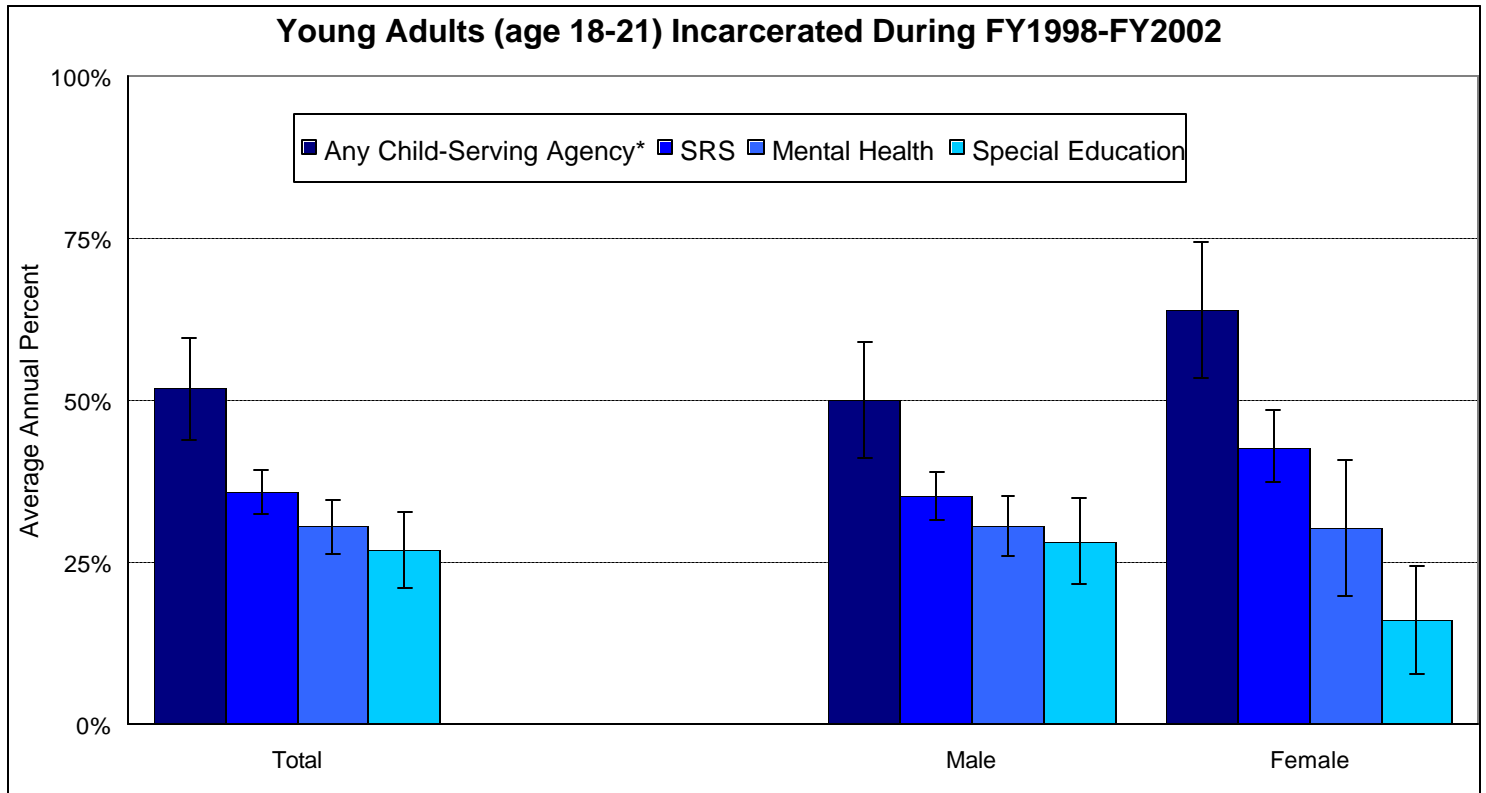
This report was prepared in response to a request for information from John Perry (Department of Corrections) regarding the proportion of young people (18 – 21 years of age) incarcerated that had a history of special education, mental health services, and/or had been on the Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS) juvenile justice and child protection caseload. In response to this request, rates of previous involvement with these child-serving agencies were computed for each of five years: FY1998 through FY2002. An average annual rate was then determined for the study period as a whole. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique personal identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of incarcerated individuals with previous involvement with children's services programs.

As you will see, on average, more than 1,000 young adults (18 - 21 years of age) were incarcerated, per year during FY1998-2002. These young adults were predominately male (88% vs. 12% female). Overall, more than half (52%) had been on the caseload of at least one of these child-serving agencies. Incarcerated young women were much more likely than incarcerated young men to have been served by these child-serving agencies (64% vs. 50%).

Among the three child-serving agencies, the greatest number of incarcerated young adults had a history of being served by SRS (36%), followed by mental health (31%), and special education (27%). Incarcerated young women were more likely than young men to have been on the SRS caseload (43% vs. 35%). Incarcerated young women and young men were about equally likely to have been on the mental health caseload (30% and 31%). Incarcerated young men, however, were more likely than incarcerated young women to have been on the state's special education caseload (28% vs. 16%).

We look forward to your interpretations of these data as well as your comments, questions, and suggestions for future analysis [pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or call 802-241-2638.

# Incarcerated Young Adults With a History of SRS, Mental Health, or Special Education Services



Average Annual Numbers and Rates : 1998-2002			
Incarcerated Young Adults	Total	Male	Female
Total Number	1,007 ± 17	887 ± 16	120 ± 2
With Previous Child-Serving Agency* Service			
Number	515 ± 82	439 ± 80	77 ± 13
Percent	52% ± 8%	50% ± 9%	64% ± 10%
With Previous SRS Service			
Number	360 ± 33	310 ± 33	50 ± 7
Percent	36% ± 3%	35% ± 4%	43% ± 6%
With Previous Mental Health Service			
Number	305 ± 42	269 ± 40	36 ± 13
Percent	31% ± 4%	31% ± 4%	30% ± 10%
With Previous Special Education Service			
Number	269 ± 61	249 ± 60	20 ± 10
Percent	27% ± 6%	28% ± 7%	16% ± 8%

\*Includes Social and Rehabilitation Services, Children's Mental Health Services, and Special Education Services

Based on data provided by The Department of Education, The Department of Corrections, Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Community Mental Health Centers

Because these databases do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals shared across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals)